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## Laurel School Board Pres. Accused of Nepotism

**Laurel School Board President Jerry White is accused of intimidating officials at Dunbar Elementary School so his daughter would get a job as a school nurse.**

By Mark Eichmann

Monday, July 23, 2007

State Auditor Tom Wagner started his investigation after getting a tip on the Auditor's anonymous hotline. Wagner says White is accused of calling the District Superintendent and the principal at Dunbar Elementary, telling them that he was 'unhappy' with their decision to hire someone other than his daughter for the position of school nurse. After that discussion, Wagner says the principal and other district personnel were concerned that they would lose their jobs, so they recommended that White's daughter be hired instead of the candidate they had already selected. "Unfortunately, it happens all the time, when a person of influence uses that influence to get a family member or friend a job. Here, it becomes much worse, when in fact somebody else got the job, and were disenfranchised from that job so that somebody's daughter could get the job. That's above and beyond bad taste and poor judgment." Wagner forwarded his investigation to the Public Integrity Commission, which agreed with Wagner's assessment that White's conduct broke state law. Wagner has forwarded the case to the state Attorney General for possible criminal prosecution.

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